



Le Petit Fort by Hudson Architects features a range of Schueco systems

Schueco glazing ideal for Jersey's most individual home

A stunning marine location and a bold design solution make a private house in the Channel Islands a very special proposition. *Resi* looks at a home whose domestic architecture while redolent of the past, is also very much of the future.

As the name 'Le Petit Fort' suggests, this is a home quite unlike any other. Situated on the shoreline of St Ouen's Bay on the west coast of Jersey, it is set within the retained granite walls of an earlier building and has an appearance that is reminiscent of one of the island's many Martello Towers.

Designed by Hudson Architects, this extraordinary house has been filmed for Channel 4's *Grand Designs' RIBA House of the Year* series and in the 2016 Schueco Excellence Awards, was the judges' unanimous choice for Best Individual House.

As might be expected, glazing formed an important part of the design

brief in terms of both appearance and performance: lead architect Anthony Hudson sets out the reasons for having chosen systems from Schueco:

'Le Petit Fort's proximity to the sea meant that very high quality glazing was needed for protection from the elements, which was why Schueco glazing was specified throughout. The glazing also complements the rich palette of materials and fine craftsmanship present on the project, crafting impressive outward views from the house onto the bay beyond.'

Anthony Hudson amplified these points with a couple of other considerations: 'We chose Schueco

because we thought they were best for an extreme marine environment. There's nothing between that bit of beach and America.

'There's also a strange micro-climate effect and a lot of funnelling of wind into the angles of the building, so we had to be particularly confident that the rain wouldn't get in.'

When viewed from the beach, Le Petit Fort appears as a low-set watchtower with only the 'keep' and the first floor level visible above the walls, yet this somewhat uncompromising exterior conceals a comfortable five-bedroom domestic dwelling benefitting from incomparable sea views.

Visitors encounter first a three-storey entrance block constructed, like the perimeter walls, from Jersey granite reclaimed from the original farmstead.

To emphasise the castle concept, radiating out from this 'keep' are a pair of two-storey wings that form an entrance forecourt and an attractive, sheltered garden enclosing a landscaped terrace with swimming pool.

From this vantage point, the building assumes a warm and welcoming aspect that is further augmented by a high degree of transparency, thanks to an extensive screen of Schueco glazing on the upper floor.

The main family living area occupies the first floor of the sea-facing wing with impressive views across the courtyard and further out into the bay through full-height Schueco AWS 70 SC windows.

In addition to Jersey granite, the house has Corten panels and polished micro-cement render. This materials palette deliberately references the muted natural tone of the surroundings and contrasts beneficially with large areas of Schueco glazing, all of which were installed by Schueco Partner, Bonam & Berry.

At ground floor level, Schueco AWS 75 full-height tilt-and-turn windows fulfil the architect's aspiration that the courtyard and house should be able to merge into one space when required.

On the first floor, where the two wings meet, Schueco ASS 70 sliding doors have been installed, while on the first-floor balcony facing west, there is a series of Schueco ASS 80 FD bi-folding doors.

All the Schueco systems are double-glazed and offer exceptional levels of insulation and water-tightness, both important factors given the property's exposed location. They also deliver the high level of security that brings peace of mind to home owners everywhere.



View of the sea from the living area through Schueco ASS 70 sliding doors



View of exposed location of Le Petit Fort from the beach

All photos: Joakim Boren